

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: HAGIWARA, et al.
Serial No.: 09/482,859
Filed: January 14, 2000
For: PATTERN FORMING PROCESS USING PHOTSENSITIVE
RESIN COMPOUND
Group: 1752
Examiner: J. Chu



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 31, 2000

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a copy of a document (European Patent Application No. 580 108A2) to be considered by the Examiner during prosecution of the above-identified application. Also enclosed is a Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing this document.

This document is being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application. Accordingly, requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

Note that the enclosed document has a date of publication of January 26, 1994, which is after the filing dates of each of the two Japanese priority applications for the above-identified application, that is, Japanese Patent Application No. 219720/1993, filed September 3, 1993, and No. 002282/1994, filed January 14, 1994.

Priority, in the above-identified application, based on

each of the two above-referred-to Japanese patent applications has been claimed, in the Claim For Priority filed January 14, 2000, in the above-identified application. This Claim for Priority indicates that certified copies of the two Japanese patent applications were filed in a prior application of the above-identified application. The Examiner has acknowledged receipt of the Claim For Priority, and receipt of the certified copies, in the Office Action mailed June 1, 2000 in the above-identified application.

In addition, enclosed herewith please find English translations of each of the two above-referred-to Japanese patent applications, together with Declarations as to the accuracy of the translations. These English translations establish that each of the two above-referred-to Japanese patent applications supports the presently claimed subject matter, under the requirements of 35 USC 112, first paragraph. In this regard, note, for example, pages 3, 5 and 13 of the enclosed English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 219720/1993; note also pages 3, 6, 14 and 15 of the English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 002282/1994.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the enclosed European Patent Application No. 580 108A2 does not constitute prior art under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103. Indication that this European patent application does not constitute prior art in connection with the presently claimed subject matter, is respectfully requested.

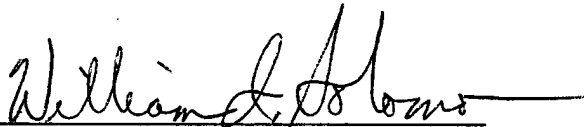
In any event, it is respectfully submitted that, by the

present submission of European Patent Application No. 580 108A2, Applicants have satisfied all requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, in connection with present submission of this document. Accordingly, consideration of this document by the Examiner, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 511.33114VV4) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures